

CPYRIGHT Date: SEP 29 1964

CPYRIGHT

## It's Our Opinion

EDITORIALLY YOURS

### Warren Remark Leaves Rough Spot In Detailed Report On Assassination

**BUT FOR AN OFF-THE-CUFF** and probably much-regretted remark by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court a few months ago, it seems quite likely that the bulky and highly-detailed report of the Warren Commission on the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy will answer nearly all the nagging doubts that have surrounded this tragic affair.

The report, itself, represents an extremely fine piece of investigative work, and leaves little question but that both the assassination of President Kennedy and the assassin's subsequent murder by Jack Ruby were individual acts motivated by personal reasons rather than by any organized conspiracy.

The evidence gathered by the Warren Commission during 10 months of effort and with the full cooperation of dozens of federal and local investigative agencies proves beyond almost any shadow of doubt that Lee Oswald was the man responsible for President Kennedy's murder.

The conclusion that Lee Oswald acted alone also seems well borne out by the evidence presented in the report, but when it is recalled that Chief Justice Warren told reporters last February that some of the evidence compiled in this case quite possibly might not be released "in my lifetime or yours," speculation will still remain that part of the complete story hasn't yet been told.

The chief justice, to our knowledge, has never completely clarified exactly what he meant by his remark. Nor does that part of the report already released to the public indicate any information of such a confidential nature and import had been uncovered by the Commission to warrant its being locked away to be revealed only to some future generation of Americans.

Yet, the fact remains Chief Justice Warren did clearly indicate to reporters that information or evidence of that nature had been uncovered, and nothing that we have yet seen in the commission's report or any light on why this remark should have been made.

**THE REPORT DOES ANSWER** one question upon which there had been considerable public speculation after the chief justice had made his remark. It was rumored then that Lee Oswald could have been a "double agent" in the employ of our own Central Intelligence Agency or some other highly sensitive branch of our government, and that he was on the federal government payroll at the time of the assassination.

Quite obviously, if information of this nature had been secured and verified, its publication would have disastrous repercussions throughout the entire federal government structure. Yet, the commission report clearly states that federal officials had testified that neither the FBI nor the CIA "had used Oswald in any capacity." If this be true, and there is no reason to doubt it, then that particular speculation would hardly have justified the Warren statement to reporters.

That leaves one other field of speculation open. That would be that he was in the employ of a foreign government, notably Russia, and that revelation of such a connection could have a disastrous effect on present Soviet-American relationships.

The report does go into considerable detail explaining Oswald's sojourn in Russia, and it states no evidence had been compiled involving any foreign government in Oswald's apparent "lone wolf" decision to assassinate President Kennedy. But here again if there was no evidence along these lines why would a man as knowledgeable as Chief Justice Warren, and who was chairman of the investigating committee, feel compelled to make a public statement indicating certain evidence might have to be withheld from publication for many years?

Outside of this notable exception, we think the report fully clarifies most of the other questions that have lingered in the public mind about this tragic affair. More than that, we believe the criticism of the press, the Dallas police department, the FBI and the Secret Service in the report was certainly justifiable criticism, which can serve a valuable purpose in the future.

That purpose will be achieved, however, only if occupants of the White House display a greater degree of cooperation with those who have been assigned to guard them. President Johnson, for instance, has been exhibiting what we feel is a highly dangerous degree of almost complete disregard for the security measures the Secret Service has put into effect to protect his person. While it may be true that a president of the people must mingle with the people he serves, this does not justify any president throwing security precautions to the winds and exposing himself to any would-be assassin in a fashion that gives his security guards an extreme case of jitters.

Politicking may be a necessary duty for any president to carry out. But doing this in a manner that makes an assassin's job easier and the Secret Service's job almost impossible cannot be justified by any kind of political considerations, and we certainly hope the Warren Commission's recommendations for tightening presidential security will be carried out.